



# The Maryland Port Administration **PRESS RELEASE**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 21, 2006

CONTACT: Richard Scher  
J.B. Hanson  
MPA Communications  
(410) 385-4480

Corporal Pamela Thorne  
MdTA Police  
(410) 537-7767

## **MdTA POLICE TO HAVE ACCESS TO DEFIBRILLATORS WHILE PATROLLING PORT**

### *Equipment Crucial in Treatment of Cardiac Arrest*

BALTIMORE, MD --- The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has purchased 13 automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for immediate use by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) Police. The MdTA police are the law enforcement agency and first responders to any event at the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore. One AED will be placed in each MdTA police vehicle that provides round-the-clock patrols of the Port.

“Sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of more than 250,000 people every year and the only known treatment is the use of an AED within the first several minutes of cardiac arrest,” said MPA Executive Director Brooks Royster. “Thousands of people work at our port everyday. As first responders, it is critical that the MdTA Police have as much training and equipment as possible should they encounter an individual having a heart attack.”

“Our officers are trained on an annual basis in order to utilize the AED units,” said Chief Gary W. McLhinney of the MdTA Police. “Studies have shown that when an AED is administered within the first few minutes of sudden cardiac arrest, a patient’s likelihood of survival may be as high as 80-90 percent.”

At the Port of Baltimore, the MdTA police oversee the six public marine terminals and the World Trade Center. In addition to their law enforcement duties at the Port, the MdTA Police provide law enforcement at the Transportation Authority’s highways, tunnels and bridges and at the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

# # #